

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-13 EB-11 FAA-00

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

DRC-01 SY-10 USSS-00 SCA-01 AID-20 /192 W

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R 100920Z SEP 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3740

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2700

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: AHRAH WRITER CRITICIZES PALESTINIAN PLAN TO

ROCKET ISRAELI AIRCRAFT AT ROME AIRPORT;

PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE REPLIES

1. SEPTEMBER 9 AHRAH CONTAINED ARTICLE BY MOHAMMED ABDEL MUN'IM STRONGLY CRITICIZING RECENT ATTEMPT BY PALESTINIANS TO SHOOT DOWN EL AL AIRCRAFT AT ROME AIRPORT. ABDEL MUN'IM'S ARGUMENT IS, FIRST, THAT SUCCESSFUL OPERATION WOULD HAVE INCURRED INTERNATIONAL WAVE OF ANGER AGAINST ARABS; AND, SECONDLY, THAT UNSUCCESSFUL PLAN WOULD DELIVER STRELA
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MISSILES--"THE LAST WORD IN AIR DEFENSE"--INTO HANDS OF

NATO POWERS.

2. SEPTEMBER 10 AHAM CONTAINS REPLY FROM "RESPONSIBLE QUARTER COMPETENT TO SPEAK FOR PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE." REPLY STATES THAT FEDAYEEN HAVE NO STRELA MISSILES WHATSOEVER, WHILE SOME ARAB ARMIES DO. MOREOVER, ABDEL MUN'IM HAS BEEN BEGUILLED BY ISRAELI PLOT TO DISCREDIT RESISTANCE, SINCE HE ONLY QUOTES REPORTS FROM TEL AVIV AND ROME. FINALLY, REPLY SUGGESTS THAT ROME AIRPORT OPERATION WAS ARRANGED BY ISRAELI INTELLIGENCE TO EMBARRASS SOVIETS SO THAT THEY WOULD REFUSE TO PROVIDE ADVANCED WEAPONRY TO ARAB COUNTRIES. ARTICLE CONCLUDES, CONVERSELY, THAT RESISTANCE IS NOT DISCOURAGED BY PROVIDING MORE PRISONERS FOR ITALIAN JAILS, AND THAT AS RESULT OF FUTURE OPERATIONS EVEN MORE (PALESTINIAN) MARTYRS AND PRISONERS WILL BE CREATED.

3. COMMENT: CRITICISM OF PALESTINIANS IN CAIRO PRESS IS UNUSUAL, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DETECTED SENSE OF UNEASE IN MANY EGYPTIAN QUARTERS ABOUT DAMAGING EFFECTS TO EGYPTIAN INTERESTS OF PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ACTS. IT SEEMS IMPROBABLY THAT ABDEL MUN'IM'S PIECE WAS CLEARED AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOE SINCE SADAT AND ZAYYAT WERE ABSENT IN ALGIERS; IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT HEYKAL IS AT LEAST PARTLY BEHIND ARTICLE. WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS.
WILEY

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30 JUN 2005

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